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# Constitution and Principles

of the
Christian and Missionary Alliance

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# Constitution and Principles

OF THE

# CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE.

REVISED AND AUTHORIZED EDITION, 1904.

## I. Name.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

## II. Object.

To bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in His fulness, to emphasize the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and to work for the evangelization of the neglected masses at home and abroad.

It is not a sect, but a fraternal union of Christians of all evangelical denominations and in cordial sympathy with all branches of the Church of Christ.

## III. Members.

All persons may be received as members who are prepared to sign the following declaration of faith and principles: "I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming Lord. I am in full sympathy with the principles and objects of the Christian and Mis-

sionary Alliance, and shall earnestly endeavor to promote them in every proper way."

New members shall be received by the Local Superintendent and Committee.

Where there is no Local Superintendent or Committee, they may be received by the State Superintendent and Committee, and where there is no State organization by the Central Organization Department.

Members may be removed for cause by any Local Superintendent and Committee with the right of appeal to the State and National authorities.

## IV. Officers and Government.

The President and General Superintendent shall preside at the meetings of the Society and the Board of Managers, and have the oversight and direction of all the work of the Alliance in conjunction with the Board of Managers.

He shall be elected triennially, by the vote of the members at the Annual Convention on the nomination of the Board of Managers. He shall be ex-officio a member of the Board of Managers and all committees.

The Treasurer shall be elected annually, and shall receive and hold the funds and securities of the Society, and disburse the same according to the instructions of the Board of Managers. He shall make a monthly and also an annual report to the Board.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board and Executive Committee and conduct the correspondence of the Society.

The Board of Managers shall consist of fifteen persons, residing in or near New York.

They shall be elected for three years by the members of the Society at the annual meeting on the nomination of a committee appointed by the President and Executive Committee and an equal number of persons chosen by the Advisory Committee. One-third shall retire annually.

They shall have power to fill vacancies and to remove any member whom they deem unsuitable by a two-thirds majority, after one month's notice of such motion.

Eight shall form a quorum.

They shall meet monthly to receive reports from all departments, vote appropriations of money, and, in conjunction with the President, manage the business of the Society.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall have charge of all the details of the work, subject to the direction of the President and Board of Managers.

It shall consist of eight or more members of the Board, comprising the Superintendents of the various departments.

They shall be appointed annually by the Board of Managers, on the nomination of the President, and shall be members of the Board.

They shall meet weekly and present a written report monthly to the Board of Managers, covering every department.

These departments shall be as follows, the General Superintendent and Board of Managers having power to add to them others when necessary:

Organization and membership.
Evangelistic work.
Education and training of workers.
Missionaries and candidates.
Finance.

Accounts.
Outfit and Transportation.
Mission Fields.
Literature.
Young People's Work.

Special committees shall be appointed by the Board on nomination of the President to assist in the Finance, Missionary and any other necessary departments.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS whose Superintendents are not necessarily members of the Board shall be appointed by the President and Executive Committee as may be necessary.

V. STATE AND PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The work in the Home Field shall be divided into Districts, State Auxiliaries, Local Branches and Bands, and shall be governed as follows:

1. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, who shall be appointed by the Board of Managers annually, and shall have the oversight of all the work in the Districts of groups of States.

2. STATE SUPERINTENDENTS, who shall be appointed by the Board of Managers on the nomination of the President with the concurrence of the District Superintendent and State Executive Committee.

3. A STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE to be elected at each annual meeting. They shall assist the Superintendent in the direction of the State work, and he shall be a member of the Committee and preside at the meetings of the Committee.

While the work in the various States and Provinces shall be under the direction of the State Superintendent and Committee, it is understood that the President and Board of Managers shall have the right at all times to interpose wherever

it may be necessary for the direction or correction of the work.

## VI. Local Branches.

The members of the Alliance in a particular locality shall be organized as a Local Branch.

The work shall be under the charge of a Local Superintendent appointed by the State Superintendent in conjunction with an Executive Committee elected by the members.

Where the members of an Alliance are widely scattered, Bands may be formed, consisting of five or more persons, under a leader approved by the Local Superintendent.

These Bands shall meet regularly for conference and prayer and unite in working for missions.

## VII. Advisory Conference.

With a view to a wider expression of interest and opinion from all parts of the work an Advisory Conference shall meet annually or oftener at the call of the President and Board, and shall consider all matters that the President and Board of Managers may submit to them for deliberation.

It shall consist of five classes of persons, viz.:

1. The President and Board of Managers.
2. All Superintendents of Departments and sub-Departments.
3. District, State and Provincial Superintendents.
4. Representatives appointed by the State Auxiliaries through the District or State Superintendent and Executive Committee.
5. All foreign missionaries at home in the

time of the meeting who are at the time in the actual service of the Board.

## VIII. Meetings.

1. National and International meetings shall be held in the great centers under the direction of the President and the Board.

2. The Annual Convocation for conference and business shall be held in New York in Easter week every year, when the General Superintendent shall present a full report of all the work of the year and the plans of the future. The Treasurer's report properly audited shall be presented, officers shall be elected and all necessary business transacted.

3. District and State Conventions shall be held where practicable every year under the direction of the District and State Superintendents, Field Secretaries, and attended by one or more of the National Committee.

4. A Local Convention shall be held in every branch once a year if possible, and visited by the State Superintendent and the General Officers when practicable.

Every Branch shall hold at least one meeting every week, for teaching, testimony and prayer. And once a month there shall be a missionary meeting.

The Bands shall meet as often as possible for mutual help, prayer and united work.

An All-day Meeting for conference and prayer shall be held once a quarter in every Branch under the care of the Superintendent, and other workers invited.

If the circumstances of the Branch allow, more

frequent meetings should be held, and the work vigorously carried on.

It shall be the aim of our work—steadily pursued until its full accomplishment—to see that in every center of population in the land there is a place—ever accessible and open—where Christ's hungry children can be taught, fed and satisfied—irrespective of all sectarian distinctions, and where lost and neglected souls can find the Saviour and a hand outstretched to lead them to Him.

## IX. Evangelistic and Mission Work at Home.

As far as practicable rescue mission work among the neglected classes and in destitute regions will be carried on, and missions established.

This work will be under the care of the Evangelistic Department of the Board, along with the State and local authorities, and the missions will be handed over to the local Branches as soon as they are able to carry them.

## X. Foreign Missions.

One great object of all our work will ever be the immediate evangelization of Israel and the heathen world. For this preëminently every Branch and Auxiliary exists; for this every soul is saved, sanctified and healed. Those who cannot go can help others to go, and thus be missionaries at home. Therefore this great work shall be constantly kept before the minds and hearts of our people. At least once a month a missionary meeting shall be held in every Branch. It shall be the crowning theme at every Convention.

Every Branch should be encouraged to sustain one or more missionaries, and every band to take

a native teacher or a heathen child. All contributions by individual members shall be credited to the branch to which they belong.

The officers will see that free missionary literature is distributed in every place, and the other publications of the Alliance circulated as widely as possible.

The rules for the government of our foreign mission fields and stations shall be those already in force under the International Missionary Alliance, revised and issued as a separate Manual.

## XI. Contributions and Funds.

The supreme reliance of this work for the means necessary to carry it forward shall always be in God alone. Un-Scriptural methods of raising money will be strictly avoided. The free-will offerings of God's people, and especially of our members, will be accepted and expected. Personal solicitations for money will not be encouraged.

Rigid economy will be exercised in the administration of this work. No salaries will be guaranteed to the workers, but such allowances made from time to time for the support of those engaged in both the home and foreign work, as the means at the disposal of the Board will allow.

Official workers will be of two classes:

(1) Honorary, or those who prefer to support themselves and give their time fully without expecting any allowance.

(2) Workers receiving support and giving their whole time to the work.

The allowances will be given in all cases on fair, equitable, impartial and economical principles covering actual needs, and it shall be the

aim of all to make the Lord's money go as far as possible in the Lord's work.

Official receipts regularly numbered, will be sent out from the Treasury Department for all sums received for each department of the work.

XII. No change shall be made in the above Constitution and Principles unless such change shall have been approved by the President and Board of Managers, and ratified by the Annual Council and Business Meeting of the Society.

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